

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

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DRAFTED BY EA/EP:AGEBER:SJB

APPROVED BY EA:PCHABIB

EB/CBA - J. BILLER

EA - L. EDMOND

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS STATE 173507

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, BEXP, AS, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED JOINT AUSTRALIA-U.S. BUSINESS COUNCIL

REF: CANBERRA 4719

1. ORIGIN OF AUSTRALIA-U.S. BUSINESSMAN COUNCIL WAS APCAC LUNCHEON DURING ANNUAL MEETING OF U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO WHICH APCAC INVITED ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOEL BILLER AND OTHER USG OFFICIALS. IN AFTER LUNCH DISCUSSION ON U.S. POST-INDOCHINA POLICIES IN EAST ASIA REGION HABIB INDICATED WE WISH TO MAINTAIN STRONG ECONOMIC PRESENCE AND CONSIDERING WAYS AND MEANS OF INTENSIFYING OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES IN REGION. BILLER BRIEFED GROUP ON BILATERAL COMMISSIONS ESTABLISHED MOSTLY WITH MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES AND ALLUDED TO JOINT BUSINESS COUNCILS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF BILATERAL COMMISSIONS. HABIB INVITED APCAC TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS.

2. IN JULY 4 LETTER FROM PERKINS TO HABIB, PERKINS PROPOSED JOINT BUSINESSMEN'S COUNCILS IN INDONESIA AND AUSTRALIA. WE ARE REPLYING TO PERKINS THAT WE DO NOT CONTEMPLATE ANY SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS, SUCH AS BILATERAL UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMISSION, WITH AUSTRALIA IN NEAR FUTURE. THIS SHOULD NOT PREVENT ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT BUSINESSMEN'S COUNCIL IN AUSTRALIA IF THERE IS INTEREST ON BOTH SIDES. IT WOULD BE STRICTLY UP TO AMERICAN CHAMBER TO EXPLORE

THIS WITH AUSTRALIAN COUNTERPART. WE RAISED QUESTION OF
TIMING FOR SUCH A MOVE GIVEN HEIGHTENED DOMESTIC POLITICAL
TENSION OF RECENT WEEKS. WE SUGGESTED TO CHAMBER TO
CONSULT WITH AMBASSADOR GREEN.

3. PERKINS, HABIB CORRESPONDENCE BEING POUCHED. KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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